

versement under the "rejection of homonyms" principle of the "American Code." It seems to the reviewer that *Petalonia* Derb. & Sol. is the right name for the genus of algae commonly known as *Phyllitis*.

Mesospora Weber-van Bosse is a genus of Ralfsiaceae, published in a preliminary way a few years earlier, but now illustrated and more fully described.

Major Reinbold, in his treatment of the genus *Sargassum*, recognizes forty-five species, of which three are proposed as new. In striking contrast to the genus *Caulerpa*, the forty-five East Indian species of *Sargassum* appear to include only one, *S. bacciferum*, that occurs also in the West Indian region. In connection with *S. bacciferum*, the author, by the way, quotes J. Agardh's statement that attached and fructiferous plants of this species occur "in rupibus extra New Foundland"—a statement that, in all probability, rests upon some sort of error.

This first part of the "Liste des algues du Siboga" is illustrated by fifty-two text figures and five handsome plates. The appearance of the second part of this important work, to include the Rhodophyceae, will be awaited with much interest.

MARSHALL A. HOWE

Wilson's A Naturalist in Western China*

When, in 1859, Asa Gray brought out his now famous paper on the relationship of the Japanese flora to that of eastern North America, it is doubtful if he realized how completely that idea was to be supported by a man who was to explore the interior of China more than fifty years later. As we now know, many of the plants mentioned by Gray as of Japanese origin were only introduced into Japan from China, and his paper must be construed today as an attempt to explain the very close relationship between the flora of eastern North America and eastern Asia.

More than any living botanist, Mr. E. H. Wilson has made it

* Wilson, E. H. A naturalist in western China with vasculum, camera and gun. With an introduction by C. S. Sargent. Vol. 1. pp. i-xxxvii+1-251. Vol. 2. pp. 1-229. 101 illustrations and map. New York. Doubleday, Page & Co. 1913. Price \$7.50.

possible for us to know something of the region in the hinterland of China and the Thibetan frontier, his travels and collections extending over a period of eleven years. Some idea of the extent of his work will be gained by remembering that he has collected some 65,000 specimens, comprising about 5,000 species, and sent home seeds of over 1,500 different plants. Thousands of these are now growing in England at Messrs. Veitch and Son's and an equal, or greater number, mostly woody plants, at the Arnold Arboretum in this country. It is difficult to speak with restraint of the importance of these additions to our cultivated plants, and it is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Wilson's plants form the most important collection ever brought out of China. Frequent scattered notices of these plants have appeared in the *Gardener's Chronicle* and the *Botanical Magazine*. Many of the finer species, horticulturally, are already in the trade, mostly in England, but some are to be had here. Of course, the most complete collection of the woody plants is at the Arnold Arboretum, but many private estates have some of them and there is a collection of over 400 species now at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The scientific results of these remarkable expeditions have already appeared, in part, as *Plantae Wilsonianae*, published at the Arnold Arboretum. Professor C. S. Sargent has contributed to the present volume a technical introduction on the relationship of the tree flora of China and eastern North America.

It would be extraordinary if a traveller and botanist of such accomplishments could not make an interesting narrative of his journeys in this all but unknown country, and such the present work proves to be. It is an intimate and personal account of the author's travels, especially in the vast province of Szechuan and the Thibetan frontier, and the wealth of botanical information is astounding. Very few of us realize the diversity and richness of this temperate flora in western China (it is the richest in the world) reaching its greatest profusion at, and westward of a point, some thousand miles up the Yangste River (Mr. Wilson says Yangste-*Kiang* is unintelligible to all the Chinese he has ever met, and that the name is simply Yangste). No review could do adequate justice to the botanical features of Mr. Wilson's

book, the information is so much a part of the general text and of such varied character. There are, of course, special chapters on the medicinal plants, fruits, general economic products, timber trees, agriculture, gardens and gardening, and the tea industry.

Besides all the interesting data about plants and their products, the author has been very much alive to all that was happening during his travels, and there is a great deal of very interesting narrative in connection with the people of this little known kingdom. Particularly the Chino-Thibetan frontier country with its all but unknown people has claimed considerable attention. Their religions, mode of life and peculiar marriage customs are very interestingly dwelt on. There are four chapters devoted to sport, in which most of the animals and birds seen during the trip are described. A concluding chapter gives, succinctly, the causes and probable tendency of the present political unrest in China, as they appeal to the author. There are over a hundred splendid illustrations accompanying the text, nearly all of which were taken by the author on the spot.

It is not too much to say of these volumes that they should be read by all who are interested in botany, by every traveller or one who hopes to travel in China, and that for the general reader and merchant there is more information in attractive form about western China than in any other work that comes readily to mind.

NORMAN TAYLOR

The American Breeders' Magazine*

The American Breeders' Magazine for the second quarter, 1913, announces important changes in the organization and administration of the American Breeders' Association. In regard to the character of the magazine published by the association for the benefit of its members, the announcement states in part as follows:

"The desire of the new management is, briefly: to retain the high standard of scientific accuracy which has made the magazine valued in the past, but at the same time to present articles of

* The price of single copies is \$.25. Membership is \$2.00 a year. Address all communications to American Breeders' Association, Washington, D. C.